Trial Lake facilities to reopen after repairs

The Central Utah Water Conservancy District is spending $1.28 million to reconstruct a dam at Trial Lake with plans to reopen recreation facilities there in 1991.

Campgrounds and other facilities were closed last year at Trial Lake, which is located 26 miles east of Kamas off U-150 near Mirror Lake in the Uinta Mountains.

"The dam and dike at Trial Lake are badly in need of repair and updating for safety reasons," said Don Christiansen, general manager of the Central Utah Water Conservancy District.

The district owns and operates the reservoir under a land-lease plan with the U.S. Forest Service. The reservoir serves irrigation companies in Heber Valley and Utah County.

The reservoir will continue to be used for irrigation until the completion of the Jordanelle Dam in 1993. Then it will be used for fishing and recreation.

The reservoir's earthen dam failed in 1985 and is being replaced by a structure 35 feet high and 600 feet long. A 500-foot-long dike will maintain reservoir capacity at 1,660 feet.

Now that area is clear of snow, heavy equipment can move into the area, and construction is scheduled to begin June 18. The job is expected to be completed by early fall so facilities can reopen next year.

Gilbert Western, a Salt Lake City-based subsidiary of the Peter Kiewett Corp., was the low bidder on the contract to begin dam, dike, spillway and outlet reconstruction work.

The public will be able to view the construction from a reviewing station being built at a safe distance from the site on the west end of Trial Lake.

Signs are posted at the Trial Lake access road off U-150 showing locations of available camping and fishing areas nearby. For additional information on those areas, contact the Forest Service Ranger Station in Kamas at 783-4338.

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